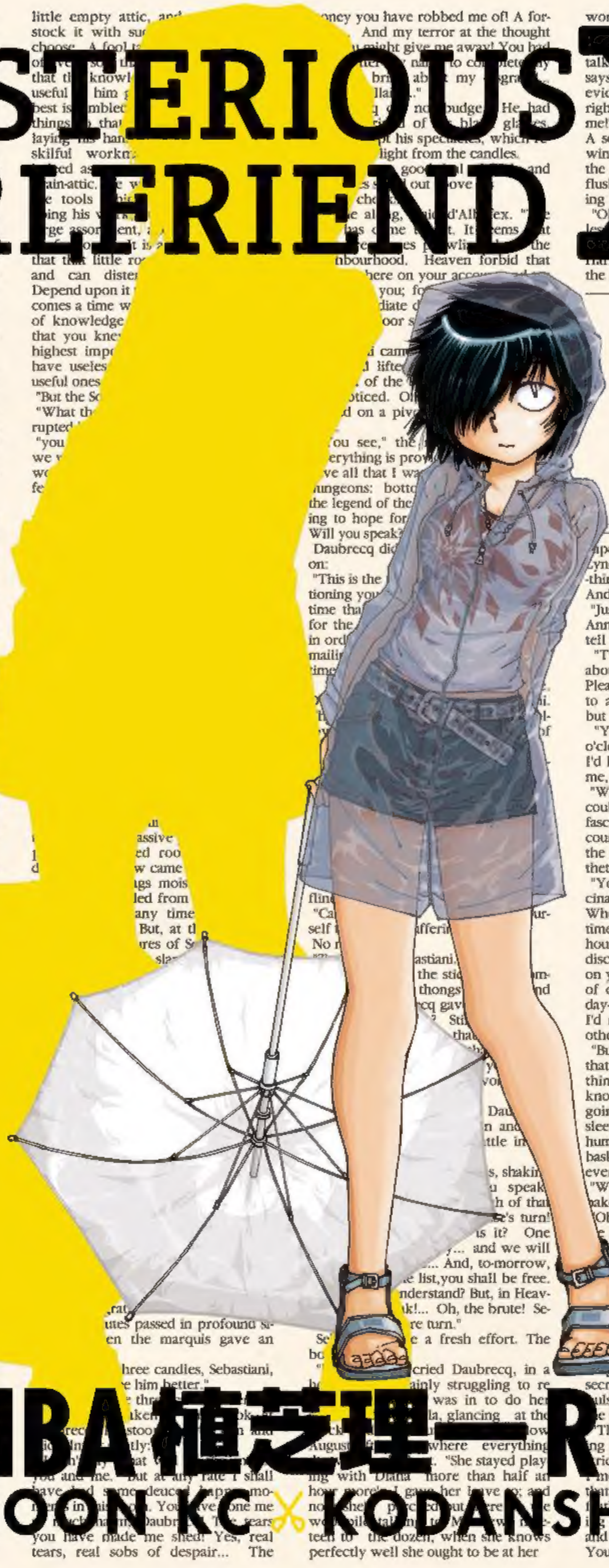
MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

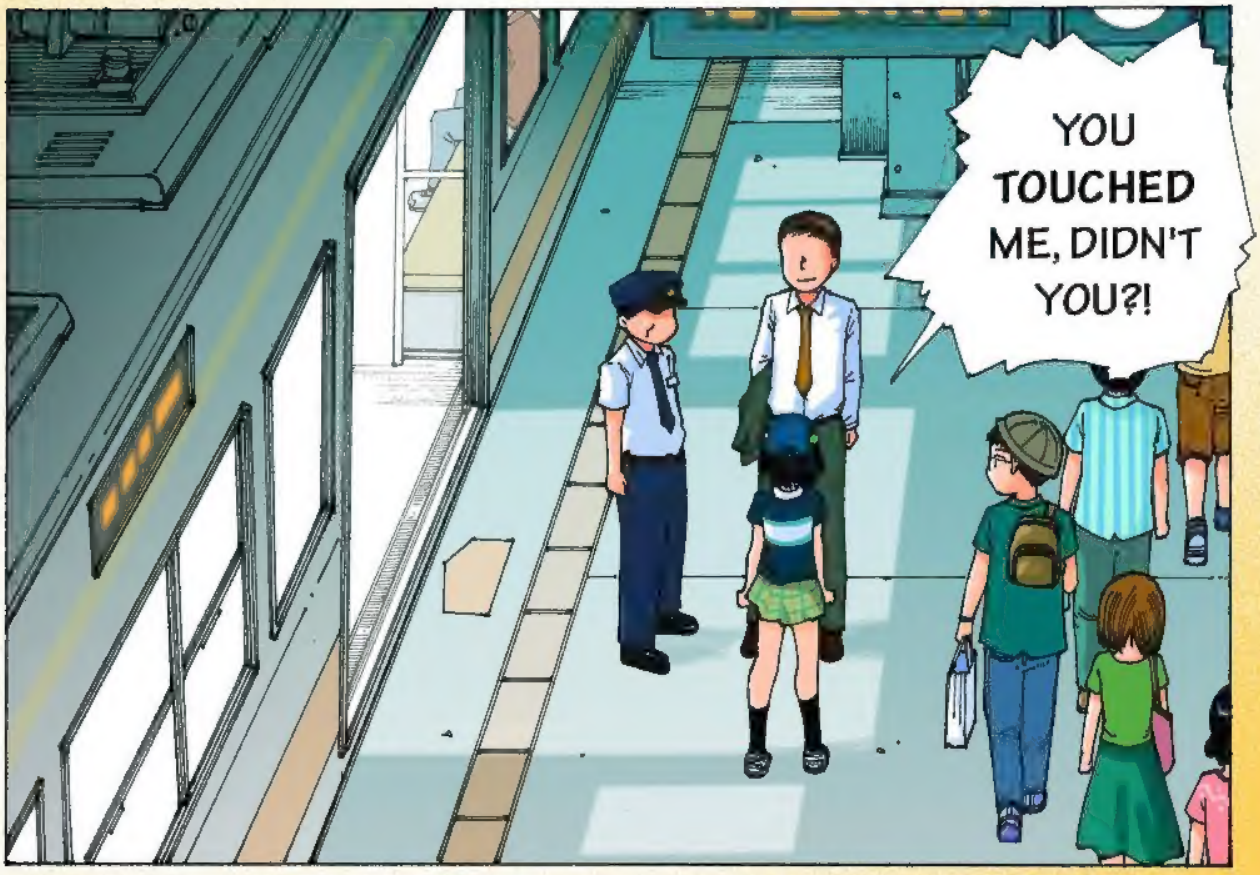
6

僕の彼女の名前は卜部美琴。付き合ってからしばらくたつけど、相変わらずミステリアスで魅力的なのは変わらない。でも、最近は少し普通の女の子らしさも見せてくれるようになってきた。僕が卜部にそっくりなアイドル・今井百夏の写真集を買った時、彼女はその本を破いた。テレビの中の芸能人に嫉妬するなんて意外だけど、それは嬉しいことだと思う。でも、もし、本当に卜部そっくりの女の子に出会ってしまったら、僕は、彼女は、どうなってしまうんだろう？



UESHIBA植芝理一—RIICHI

AFTERNOON KC ✂ KODANSHA Ltd.


YOU TOUCHED ME, DIDN'T YOU?!

I KNOW IT WAS HIM! HE TOUCHED MY BUTT!
ARE YOU SURE IT WAS THIS MAN?

SWISH

LURAGE the
LURAGE the
IF YOU'RE GOING TO INSIST I DID IT, THEN WHY DON'T YOU SUE ME?
YOU'LL ONLY HUMILIATE YOURSELF.
SO YOU SAY, BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF?

CHAPTER 37: MYSTERIOUS HIGH KICK
WHOOSH
ヒュッ
BASH
バシッ

ドカーン
KA-THUD
LOVE
FIRE
ギュッ
TUG

YOU FILTHY PERVERT!!
SERVES YOU RIGHT!!
UKABE!!
INCREDIBLE THING LAST NIGHT!!
OH, MAN.
I SAW THE MOST

ARGUING OVER WHETHER OR NOT HE HAD SEXUALLY MOLESTED HER.
I JUST HAPPENED!
TO SEE A BUSINESS-MAN AND A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL
YEAH!
INCREDIBLE!
ON THE PLATFORM AT KAZAMIDAI STATION.

A HIGH KICK THAT SENT HIM FLYING!
AND GAVE THE BUSINESSMAN
THE GIRL SHOT HER RIGHT LEG UP IN THE AIR.
THEN,
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ARGUMENT,
AND,
GIRL WAS ACTUALLY
WOW, THAT'S PRETTY CRAZY...
MAN, THAT WAS SOME KICK!
THEN, WHEN HE HIT THE GROUND, HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS

IT WAS URABE!
...A GIRL FROM OUR CLASS.
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT...?
Y-...
NO, I'M SERIOUS!
I DO SEE HER IN CLASS EVERY DAY. SO I KNOW HER FACE WHEN I SEE IT.
IT WAS DEFINITELY URABE!
MAN, THAT GIRL...
SHE'S NORMALLY SO QUIET,
SO I HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS SO VIOLENT...
VIOLENT...
I GOTTA BE CAREFUL NEVER TO MAKE HER MAD.

IF YOU SUBSTITUTE THE VALUE OF X HERE...
SO...
HMM...
SOMEONE TOLD ME URABE WAS VIOLENT...
IF
I GUESS(B, IN A WAY, SHE IS PRETTY VIOLENT...
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HER SEND SOMEONE FLYING
WITH A HIGH KICK...
THEN AGAIN, IF SHE WAS MOLESTED...
I CAN IMAGINE HER DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

AND EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T TOUCHED HER THAT MUCH...
I'M HER BOYFRIEND.
WELL, I CAN'T EITHER. FORGIVE WAY, ANYONE WHO WOULD MOLEST UKABE.
DING DONG
DING DONG
24 MART
HM?
HUH?

IT'S URABE...
WHAT IS SHE DOING THERE
INSTEAD OF AT OUR USUAL PLACE?
AND IN REGULAR CLOTHES?
URABE!
HEEEE?
WHAT'S WRONG?

URABE!
YAH!
URABE!!
.....
URABE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT...?!

WHAT IS "URABES" FIRST NAME?
THEN,
WHO ELSE WOULD I MEAN?
OF COURSE.
HUH?
DO YOU MEAN...
URA-BE"?
ME?
URABE...
MIKOTO
MI---
MIKOTO, OF COURSE.
FIRST NAME?
AND NOT AT OUR USUAL PLACE?
AND IN REGULAR CLOTHES.
WHY ARE YOU STAND-ING IN HERE READING
DID YOU STOP BY HOME FIRST?
OH...
SO MY NAME'S MIKOTO URABE...

YOU'RE A STUDENT AT KAZAMIDAI HIGH SCHOOL!
OH!
THAT UNIFORM!
THAT'S RIGHT.
HUH?

YE...
YES, I AM.
THAT MUST MEAN YOU'RE ONE OF MY CLASSMATES, RIGHT?
SINCE YOU SPOKE TO ME.
URAHE'S ACTING REALLY WEIRD TODAY...
NO?

OKAY!
LET'S GO!
FOR NOW!
FO...
LET'S JUST GO TO OUR USUAL PLACE...
FOR NOW...
WE NEED TO DO OUR DAILY ROUTINE...

TAP TAP TAP
I RAN A LITTLE LATE..
DID HE LEAVE EARLY
HUH?
TSUBAKI-KUN ISN'T HERE..
BECAUSE I DIDN'T SHOW UP...?

URABE
...
URABE!!
YAH!
YOU MEAN ME!
WHAT?
OH!
URABE!
OH!
YOU KICKED A MOLESTING BUSH-NEGGMAN
AND KNOCKED HIM UNCONSCIOUS.
HE SAID THAT YESTERDAY.
UENO TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED.
UENO?

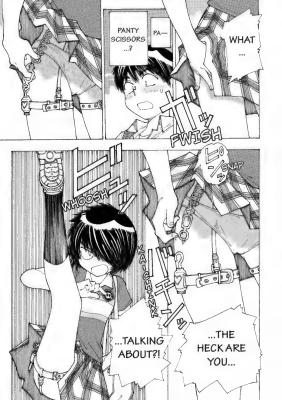
I CAN'T FORGIVE
ANYONE WHO TOUCHES YOU LIKE THAT...
SINCE HE SAID SOMETHING SO STUPID...
KINDA...
IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE TOUCHED ME,
BUT HE SAID IT ONLY HUMILIATE MYSELF.
WHY?
KNOCK HIM OUT?
I WOULD'VE LIKED TO KNOCK HIM OUT.
IF I HAD BEEN THERE,
BECAUSE YOU'RE MY GIRL-FRIEND.
IS—
HUH?
IF THAT HAP-PENED TO MY GIRL FRIEND,
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
AS A MAN, I...
GIRL-FRIEND?!

HE'S NOT MUCH OF A GUY...
WOW...
OF...
OF COURSE!
I AM.
LIKABE-
REALLY IS ACTING WEIRD TODAY...
BY GIRLFRIEND
YOU MEAN YOU'RE MY BOYFRIEND?!
"ROUTINE"
...?
AND THEN I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN TOMORROW
LET'S DO OUR USUAL ROUTINE HERE...
ANY-WAY,
A—
WHAT'S OUR ROUTINE?

DROOL?
WHAT ABOUT MY DROOL?
MY DROOL?!
Y—
YOUR DROOL...
WHAT'S...?
LI—
AND THEN YOU LET ME
COVER IT WITH DROOL...
LICK IT OFF YOUR FINGER...
BE...
HUH?!
YOU PUT YOUR FINGER IN YOUR MOUTH
BEFORE WE GO HOME,
DON'T MAKE ME SPELL IT OUT NOW!!
MAN.
UMM...
YOU AND LOG THAT EVERY DAY?!
GKSS—

DASH!!
WELL...
I'VE GATHERED ENOUGH INFORMATION...
UH...
I FEED MY BOYFRIEND MY DROOL EVERY DAY?!
SOUNDS LIKE THIS "MIKOTO URABE" IS ONE WEIRD GIRL!
THIS IS GREAT!
A HA HA HA...
HAHA...
GRAB!!
HANG ON!!
THAT'S...

TOK-
URA-BE!
HANG ON.
WHO?
AND...
TSUBAKI-KUN..
SO...
WEIRD TODAY?
YOU'RE ACTING
HUH?
MIGHT TELL ME WHY YOU'RE ACTING SO WEIRD...
OUR BOND OF DROOL
IF I TASTE IT NOW,
LET ME TASTE YOUR DROOL
HEY..
WHA..
COME ON!


PANTY SCISSORS...?
PA...
WHAT...
SWISH
WHOOSH
...TALKING ABOUT?!
...THE HECK ARE YOU...

WHOOSH
ヒュッ
バシッ
BASH
HUH?!

KA-THUD
ドカーン
DASH
ダッ

I'VE DONE IT NOW...
MAN...
I'VE GOTTEN SO USED TO UNDOING THESE RESTRAINTS!
AW, MAN, I DID IT AGAIN...
THERE'S NO POINT IN EVEN WEARING THEM!

WHOOSH
WHOOSH!!
WHOOM

ZE
YOU'RE ...
YOU...

FREE

"URABE MIKOTO." AREN'T YOU...?
SO IT'S TRUE.
WITH MY HAIR DYED,
WE LOOK SO ALIKE. IT'S UNBELIEVABLE.

END OF CHAPTER 37

CHAPTER 38: MYSTERIOUS PLAN

I'M WHAT THEY CALL
AN IDOL ♥
MOMOKA IMAI.

I HAVE BEEN
I MEAN,
PRETTY FAMOUS LATELY, AFTER ALL...
WELL?
YOU LOOK SURPRISED.
ARE YOU STARSTRUCK?
HAS BEEN TALKING TO ME ALL THIS TIME, THINKING I WAS YOU!
YOUR BOYFRIEND
REALLY DOES MAKE ME LOOK LIKE YOU!
BUT ANYWAY,
I GUESS DYING MY HAIR BLACK
AH...
DON'T TELL ME...

I BET!
HE LIKES ME BECAUSE "SHE LOOKS LIKE MY GIRLFRIEND♥"
IS YOUR BOYFRIEND ACTUALLY A FAN OF MINE, TOO?
AH!
TSUBAKI-KUN...
TSUBAKI-KUN...

GRAB
HEY, HEY!
MM...
MM
DON'T WAKE HIM UP
RIGHT NOW!
DON'T WAKE HIM UP?
WHY NOT?
BE CAUSE AND I
YOU
ARE GOING TO BE THE SAME PERSON FROM NOW ON.
IF HE SEES
THERE'LL BE TROUBLE!
TWO OF THE SAME PERSON IN FRONT OF HIM,

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AS THE SAME PERSON...?
THE TWO OF US...
BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT FROM YOU!
I'M HERE
YES!
ARE YOU
WHAT
AND...
DOING HERE, ANYWAY?
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT FROM ME?

THEN I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I WANT!
LET'S GO TO THAT PARK OVER THERE!
IT'D BE BAD IF HE WOKE UP ON US HERE...
UH...
OVER THERE!

MY KICK JUST GAVE HIM A MILD CONCUSSION.
HE'LL WAKE UP SOON.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR BOY-FRIEND.
WELL, COME ON!
I'LL TELL YOU STRAIGHT
OKAY.
WILL YOU TELL ME NOW?
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT FROM ME?

YOU ARE GOING
TO BE AN IDOL.
IF WE LOOK SO ALIKE,
YOUR BOYFRIEND THOUGHT I WAS YOU
JUST BECAUSE I DYED MY HAIR BLACK...
THAT ALSO MEANS,
IF YOU DYE YOUR HAIR BROWN,
YOU'LL LOOK JUST LIKE MOMOKA IMAI.
RIGHT?

YOU CAN BE AN IDOL, AND I CAN BE A NORMAL GIRL!
YOU CAN BE MOMOKA IMAI, AND I CAN BE MIKOTO URABE!
WE'LL EACH GET TO ENJOY LIVING BOTH LIVES!
IN OTHER WORDS,
IF WE WORK TOGETHER AND SWITCH PLACES ON OCCASION...
HOW ABOUT IT?
DOESN'T THAT SOUND AWESOME?
I WANT YOU TO BE MY PARTNER IN THIS PLAN!
THA—
THAT'S WHY YOU CAME TO SEE ME?
THAT'S WHY I CAME TO SEE YOU!

YOU'RE INTERESTED, AREN'T YOU!!
YES!
WELL?
NOT EVERYONE GETS TO EXPERIENCE THE LIFE OF AN IDOL!
MY PLAN?
ARE YOU UP FOR
I'M PERFECTLY SATISFIED WITH MY OWN LIFE.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN BEING AN IDOL.
HUH?
RIDICULOUS...
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN
YOUR PLAN.
BYE.
HEY..

WAIT A SECOND!
BLOCK
IF YOU SAY YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED,
THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE YOU INTERESTED..
SHOOM
!

SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
WHOA!!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

キャるん♪
WHERE
SMACK!

SKID...
HHH...
WHAT ON THIS EARTH IS GIRL?! WITH
PULLING CRAZY MOVES LIKE THAT WITH SCISSORS!
STILL, SHE WAS MOVING SO FAST.
EVEN I HAD A HARD TIME KEEPING MY EYES ON HER.
I GUESS SHE'S GOT THE ATHLETIC ABILITY TO BE AN IDOL...
SHE'S GOT THE ATHLETIC ABILITY TO BE AN IDOL...

ガラ
ガラ
SHIVER...
ドサッ
ドサッ
ドサッ
ドサッ

HUH...?
WHAT?!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
MY...
MY CLOTHES
ARE SHREDDED...

SCISSORS ATTACK SHE USED...?!
WAS IT THAT
PANT PANT
PANT PANT
PANT
MM...
MM?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
PANT PANT
PANT PANT

OH, NO...
I'M FINE!
THAT'S OKAY!
I CALL AN AMBULANCE!
IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL,
HUH!?
DID YOU HAVE A HEAT STROKE!
N-NO...
IT WASN'T THAT!
WHAT HAPPENED!
WHY ARE YOU LYING AROUND HERE!

KNOCKED ME OUT...
URAA'S HIGH KICK
I'M PRETTY SURE...
RIGHT
WHEN DID YOU GET TO BE SUCH A VIOLENT GIRL
URAA!!
...?

WAKE UP!
COME ON!
HEY!
AND WHAT IF SOMEONE COMES THIS WAY...!
I CAN'T GO ANYWHERE LIKE THIS!
COME ON, WAKE UP!!
HEY!
!
.....

END OF ☒ CHAPTER 38

CHAPTER 39: MYSTERIOUS UNISON

THEY'RE HUGE...
HER CHEST IS THE ONLY THING THAT LOOKS NOTHING LIKE ME!
THERE'S NO WAY SHE CAN TAKE MY PLACE IN SWIMSUIT PHOTOSHOOTS
DAMN! HER WAIST IS ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AS MINE.
BUT HER CHEST IS SO DEVELOPED...
GULP
GULP

JOLT
WHOA!
STAND
UH
JUST...
ER...
COULDN'T HELP MYSELF
LIFTING UP MY SHIRT?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING.

AKE YOU JUST GONNA
LEAVE ME HERE LIKE THIS?!
HEY!
WAIT!
AH...
DASH
TSUBAKI-KUN IS...
GONE...

AND WENT ON HOME...
I GUESS HE WOKE UP
TSUBAKI-KUN IS...
GONE...
TAP
TAP
TAP

HEY!
IT'S YOUR FAULT
THIS HAPPENED TO ME!
TAKE RE-SPONSI-BILITY!
YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES
IN THAT BAG?
FINE, THEN...
NO, I DON'T!

AND I'LL LEND YOU AN OUTFIT.
THEN COME WITH ME TO MY HOUSE
MY PE UNIFORM IS IN THERE.
PUT THAT ON FOR NOW.
ガチャ
ガチャガチャ
ガチャガチャ
ガチャ

UH,
BEFORE THAT...
SO YOU CAN PICK AN OUTFIT.
I'LL LET YOU LOOK IN MY CLOSET.
PA-...
PARDON THE INTRUSION.
COME IN...

I STAYED IN A NET CAFÉ LAST NIGHT, BUT I DIDN'T USE THE SHOWERS...
WOULD YOU MIND IF I TOOK A SHOWER?
.....
FINE WITH ME.
SHUUUUUUU
SHUUUUUUU

YOU CAN PUT ON FOR NOW.
AND A SHIRT.
HERE'S A TOWEL.
TH—
THANKS.
WHEW
...
WANT SOME BARLEY TEA?
GU—
SURE!
THANKS FOR EVERY THING.

WHEW...
I FEEL A LOT CALMER
MOMOKA MAI-SAN
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU...
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT ME?
I MEAN,
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT THERE'S A GIRL IN KAZAMIDAI...
HUH?
WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU?
HUH?
OH!

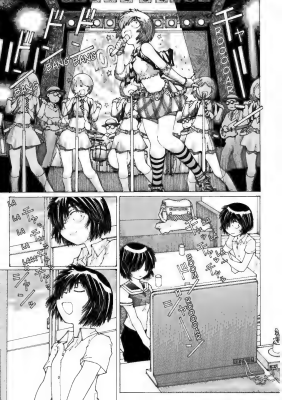
DO YOU KNOW
SOMEONE NAMED HITOSHI NAKAJIMA?
SOMEONE SENT THIS FAN LETTER TO MY AGENCY.
"NAKAJIMA"
HITOSHI NAKAJIMA
HE'S A BOY IN MY CLASS.
FROM A PILE OF FAN MAIL ON THE DESK AT MY AGENCY...
I JUST HAPPENED TO PICK IT UP AND READ IT
"THERE'S A GIRL AT MY SCHOOL, KAZAMIDAI HIGH SCHOOL, WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE HYAKKI."
AND HE INCLUDED A PHOTO.
IT SAYS IN THIS LETTER,

SO I'VE BEEN HANGING AROUND KAZAMIDAI HIGH SINCE YESTERDAY.
I DECIDED I WANTED TO MEET THIS GIRL WHO LOOKS LIKE ME.
WHEN I SAW IT,
WHEN YOU SAID WE SHOULD SWITCH PLACES NOW AND THEN...
YES, I'M SERIOUS!
WERE YOU SERIOUS?
BUT
HMM...
I'M FINE!
I'M ENJOYING MY LIFE AS AN IDOL.
SOMETIMES I JUST FEEL SO EMPTY...
I MEAN,
AND IT'S FULFILLING, BUT...

BUT SOMETIMES I WISH I COULD GO TO SCHOOL
AND WALK HOME WITH THE BOY I LIKE.
JUST LIKE A NORMAL GIRL...
AND ENDING MY TEEN YEARS AS AN IDOL
SUDDENLY MADE ME FEEL REALLY LONELY.
OH!
THAT BOY I KICKED!
HE'S YOUR BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?
DO YOU WALK HOME WITH HIM
AFTER SCHOOL EVERY DAY?

BUT FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL SO JEALOUS!
THERE'D NOTHING PARTIC-ULARLY SPECIAL ABOUT HIM.
WOW! THAT'S SO BITTERSWEET
YES.
YE—
SHE OVERREACTS TO EVERY-THING.
HM?
I...I'll STAY!

UH...
WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS?
HEY, THIS IS MY CONCERT DVD!
DVD TOP: MOMOKUSA RIKU'S FIRST CONCERT
DVD BOTTOM: LIVE THE MOMO WAY
MIND IF I PLAY IT A LITTLE?
I SEE! I SEE!
TSUBAKI-KUN IS YOUR BOYFRIEND?
WELL
TSUBAKI-KUN IS A FAN OF YOURS...
AND
I WONDERED WHAT YOU WERE LIKE...
SO I BOUGHT MY OWN COPY...


ドドド

YOU THINK SO?
PRETTY GOOD.
YOU REALLY ARE ……

ニノ
WRUMP
ニノ
WRUMP
ニノ
WRUMP

ロミジュリ
ニヤッ
ニヤッ
ニヤッ
ニヤッ

BA-BAM

HOW?!
DO YOU HAVE DANCING EXPERIENCE?
NO...
I DON'T...
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD!
MAN...
EVER SINCE I SAW YOUR FAST MOVES WITH THOSE SCISSORS,
MOVING LIKE THAT ON YOUR FIRST TRY
IS INCREDIBLE!
I KNEW YOU HAD SOME SERIOUS athletic ABILITY!
BOY
WILL YOU RECONSIDER MY PLAN?
WE'LL SWITCH PLACES FROM TIME TO TIME.
I DON'T WANT THAT
REALLY...
AND, YOU'RE A GOOD SINGER, TOO!
WITH SOME REAL TRAINING, YOU MIGHT BE BETTER THAN ME!

THEN AGAIN, I GUESS YOU'RE NOT THAT NORMAL...
BUT...
ARE YOU THAT HAPPY WITH JUST LIVING LIKE A NORMAL GIRL?
WHY NOT?
EVERY DAY.
LIKE, HE SAID HE TASTES YOUR DROOL...
AND THEN YOU LET ME...
YOU OPENED YOUR MOUTH FOR ME WITH DROOL...
HE SAID SOME WEIRD THINGS.
THAT TSUBAKI GUY...
ABNORMAL?
GROSS?!
SHE'S OVER-REACTING...
HONK
YES...
DO YOU GUYS
REALLY DO THAT...?

IT'S NOT GROSS AT ALL...
HOW IS IT NOT GROSS?!
THE BOND BETWEEN TSUBAKI AND ME...
DROOL IS
YOU HAVE TO SEE IT TO UNDERSTAND...
I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT.
UM...
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
DROOL IS...
YOUR BOND?
EXPLAIN IT TO ME.

HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO!
ALL RIGHT!
HMM...
AND IF I UNDERSTAND YOUR BOND FROM SEEING THAT,
LET ME WATCH YOU FEED YOUR DROOL
TO TSUBAKI-KUN!
I'LL GIVE UP ON MY PLAN!

END OF CHAPTER 39

CHAPTER 40: MYSTERIOUS WRITING

ACRYL
ACRYL
ACRYL

AND IF I UNDERSTAND YOUR BOND FROM SEEING THAT,
I'LL GIVE UP ON MY PLAN!
LET ME WATCH YOU FEED YOUR DROOL
TO TSUBAKI-KUN!
.....
MOMOKA-SAN..!
WAKE UP..!

I'LL LEAVE THE KEY. SO LOCK THE DOOR WHEN YOU GO.
I NEED TO GO TO SCHOOL...
MORNING ALREADY
MM... HUH?
AND AT THE TIME AND PLACE I TOLD YOU ABOUT YESTERDAY.
MAKE SURE YOU STAY HIDDEN.
ALL RIGHT. I'M GOING NOW
YAAAWN...
AND WHEN YOU SEE THE BOND BETWEEN TSUBAKI-KUN AND ME.
OHAAAAY...
YOU HAVE TO
GIVE UP ON THAT WEIRD PLAN, LIKE YOU PROMISED.

MIKOTO!
THANKS FOR LETTING ME SPEND THE NIGHT
IT'S OKAY
IT WAS
NO BIG DEAL...
HAVE A GOOD DAY!
HAVING A GIRL WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE ME SEE ME OFF IN THE MORNING
SUKE FEELS WEIRD...
TSUN
TSUN

I'VE MADE URABE MAD AND SEEN HER PANTY DOUBORS BEFORE...
THAT WAS A REAL SHOCK...
URABE KICKED ME...
URABE KICKED ME...
URABE KICKED ME...
I'M REALLY SHOCKED
BUT THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME SHE EVER ACTUALLY USED VIOLENCE ON ME...
.....
BUT I'M REALLY SHOCKED
I'M REALLY SHOCKED
I'M REALLY SHOCKED

CAN WE DO IT IN THAT PARK TODAY?
INSTEAD OF HERE,
YEAH?
TSUBAKI -KUN,
ABOUT OUR ROUTINE...
PLEASE!
JUST..
WELL,
I THOUGHT A CHANGE WOULD BE NICE.
THE PARK?
WHAT FOR?

O—
OKAY...
HERE,
TSUBAKI-KUN..

ちゅ
SCHLP
う

I TASTED YOUR DROOL...
WHAT IS THIS?!
WH--
AND MY NOSE STARTED BLEEDING
GASP
プハッ

I'M WEARING UNDER-WEAR.
NO,
NOT WEARING
UNDER-WEAR TODAY?
URABE
IS IT BECAUSE
YOU'RE

I SUDDENLY FELT THE NEED TO TEST OUR BOND...
SORRY.
ボッシュ
.....
WHAT IS THIS?
BUT,
I FEEL REALLY... HAPPY RIGHT NOW, FOR SOME REASON...
...I SEE.

OKAY.
SEE YOU TOMORROW, TSUBAKI-KUN.
WELL,
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
YOU'RE HERE, RIGHT?
YOU CAN COME OUT.

DID YOU SEE?
RUSTLE
YES!
WAS THAT THE BOND YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
HIS NOSE STARTED BLEEDING.
WHEN THAT TSUBAKI GUY TASTED THE DROOL ON YOUR FINGER,
THE SECRET UNDERNEATH YOUR UNIFORM?
TSUBAKI-KUN'S NOSE STARTED BLEEDING
YES.
BECAUSE MY DROOL CONVEYED THE SECRET UNDERNEATH MY UNIFORM

WHY ARE YOU TAKING OFF YOUR...
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SHFF
OH...

I LOOK AT YOU
TSURAI-KUN
♥

"I LOVE TSUBAKI-KUN♥"...
DID YOU PAINT THIS ON?
椿くん
椿くん
YES.
I WROTE IT WITH ACRYLIC PAINT BEFORE SCHOOL.
EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T TELL HIM ABOUT
THIS SECRET USING WORDS,
IT WAS CONVEYED IN MY DROOL.
WHICH MADE TSUBAKI-KUN EXCITED, SO HIS NOSE BLED.

THAT IS
THE BOND OF DROOL
BETWEEN TSUBAKI-KUN AND ME.
IN OTHER WORDS, WE CAN COMMUNICATE.
CHANGES IN OUR MINDS AND BODIES THROUGH DROOL.
MOMOKA-SAN...
I KEPT MY PROMISE AND SHOWED YOU OUR BOND.
SO GIVE UP ON THAT WEIRD PLAN OF YOURS.

GOING TO SCHOOL LIKE A NORMAL GIRL...
GO BACK TO YOUR LIFE AS AN IDOL.
AND...
WALKING HOME WITH THE BOY I LIKE...

GIVE UP ON MY PLAN TO SWITCH PLACES WITH YOU, AS PROMISED?
I WILL
MIKOTO...
BUT FIRST...
SLIDE
JUST ONCE...

AREN'T YOU INTERESTED IN SEEING HOW HE'D REACT
TASTE MY DROOL, TOO.
I WANT TO LET THAT TSUBAKI GUY
JUST LIKE YOU FEEDS HIM DROOL?
IF A GIRL WHO LOOKS
SO, I'LL BE BORROWING THIS UNIFORM FOR A WHILE!
WHAT?!

DAMN HER...
HEY ...
HOLD IT!!
STOP!!
BANG
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

WHERE'D SHE GO?
SCREECH
SCREECH
IT'S THIS WAY!

WHOA!
I KNEW YOU'D BE IN THIS TOWN!
I FINALLY FOUND YOU!
TO TRY TO FOOL ME WON'T WORK!
DYING YOUR HAIR BLACK
HUH?

HUH?
WHO ARE YOU?
?
WHAT KIND OF DUMB QUESTION IS THAT?
DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH TROUBLE YOU'VE CAUSED BY DISAPPEARING FOR TWO DAYS?!
I'M YOUR MANAGER!
I WON'T LET YOU RUN AWAY AGAIN.
MOMOKA!!

END OF CHAPTER 40

CHAPTER 41: MYSTERIOUS PERFORMANCE

WHERE DID YOU FIND HER?
SHE WAS IN THE TOWN THAT FAN WROTE ABOUT IN HIS LETTER.
MOMOKA-CHAN.
EVERY-ONE'S BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

I SPOTTED HER STANDING ON THE SIDEWALK.
AND BY COINCIDENCE,
I WENT TO THAT TOWN ON THE OFF-CHANCE SHE'D GONE THERE.
YES!
THE ONE WHERE THE FAN SAID THERE WAS A LOOKALIKE OF MOMOKA?
THAT LETTER...
WHAT?
NO, I'M...
UH...
SO I NABBED HER AND BROUGHT HER BACK.
Dragging
YOU SHOULDN'T JUST DISAPPEAR WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE.
BUT STILL,
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN SAYING LATELY THAT YOU WANT TO QUIT BEING AN IDOL...
MOMOKA-CHAN...

YOU CAN'T TAKE LETTERS LIKE THAT SERIOUSLY.
YOU KNOW.
SINCE YOU WENT TO THAT TOWN,
WERE YOU TRYING TO GET THE LOOKALIKE TO TAKE OVER AS AN IDOL FOR YOU?
YOU WERE PRETTY ABSORBED IN THAT LETTER ABOUT YOUR LOOKALIKE...
BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I...
ER...
NO...
THEY LOOK COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WHEN YOU SEE THEM IN PERSON.
EVEN IF THEY LOOK SIMILAR IN A PHOTO,
MORE OFTEN THAN NOT,
DYING YOUR HAIR BLACK
STILL,
LIKE THE GIRL IN THAT PHOTO...
PHOTO

むぎゅっ
WITH THESE BREASTS?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL
AND...
REAL...
FOR PADS, THESE FEEL AWFULLY
WAIT..
HUH?
.....
HOW MANY PADS DID YOU USE?
THEY'RE NOWHERE NEAR YOUR REAL SIZE.

YAAAH!
I'M TELLING YOU...

I'M MIKOTO URABE, A SECOND-YEAR AT KAZAMIDAI HIGH SCHOOL!!
I'M A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON FROM MOMOKA IMA!!!
I'M NOT MOMOKA IMA!!!
SIGN FOR 'IM MOMOKA IMA' SECK SQUAD
SIGN BOTTOM: OUTBURST OF PURE HEART
WHOA...!
DIFFERENT PERSON!?
WHAT?!

NO, I'M NOT!
SO YOU'RE
NOT MOMOKA-CHAN?
WHAT...?
A DIFFERENT PERSON
WELL...
IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS TRUE.
YOU'RE THE LOOKALIKE FROM THAT LETTER!
WHICH MEANS...
YOU SAID YOU'RE A SECOND-YEAR AT KAZAMIDAI HIGH...
NEVER IMAGINED...
!
I MEAN...

ARE YOU...
HEY...
WHOA!
SHE'S NOT WEARING THE HIGH KICK RESTRAINTS...
LOOK!
SEE?
INSTEAD,
FOR SOME REASON, SHE HAS A PAIR OF SCISSORS...

DO YOU HAVE A WIG MATCHING MOMOKA'S HAIR?
NOZAKI-KUN,
YES, I DO...
SHE'S ANOTHER GIRL.
.....
WHO LOOKS LIKE MOMOKA.
COVER!
THIS GIRL IS
DEFINITELY NOT MOMOKA.

RIGHT!
BRING IT HERE!
THIS IS A REAL SURPRISE.
I CAN'T TELL HER APART FROM MOMORA-CHAN.
WITH THE BROWN WIG ON.
AMAZING...
HER BREASTS ARE WAY BIGGER THAN MOMORA'S, THOUGH
YOU REALLY AREN'T MOMORA, ARE YOU?
I'M NOT!
IN THAT CASE...

IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING, PLEASE TELL ME!
WHERE IS THE REAL MONOKA NOW?
AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE WENT!
BUT SHE RAN OUT WEARING MY SCHOOL UNIFORM.
SHE DID STAY AT MY HOUSE LAST NIGHT,
I DON'T KNOW.
.....
THE CAMERA CREW FOR THE INTERVIEW IS STANDING BY!
TAKAGI-SAN!
BAM
WAS URA... RIGHT?
YOUR NAME...
UM.
IT'S URABE.

AND THE PRESS IS IN THE NEXT ROOM RIGHT NOW WAITING TO INTERVIEW HER ABOUT IT...
THE THING IS, MOMOKO HAD A CONCERT IN THREE DAYS.
URA-SIS-KUN!
AND GREET THE PRESS FOR ME?!
CAN YOU PRETEND TO BE MOMOKA
GRAB!
むにっ!
GET HER IN COSTUME RIGHT AWAY!
NOZAKI-KUN OKAY.
HOW'S THE COSTUME?
MIYA-SAN!
IT'S READY?
ALL RIGHT!
YES, SIR!
WH...
WHAT?!
WHY SHOULD I...

I'M SORRY
HEY..
HUH?!
GRAB
SQUEEZE

NOW DON'T STRUGGLE!
C'MON, TAKE IT OFF!
NOW, PUT THIS ON!
OW...
C'MON, THE MORE YOU STRUGGLE... THE MORE IT WILL
IS NOT WHY SHOULD I WEAR SOMETHING LIKE...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HER, BOSS-SORRY
THEY'LL ACCENT THE COSTUME...
HMM... LET'S SLIP THEM IN HERE.

THIS IS BEYOND ANY THING I EXPECTED...
WOW!
BAM
WH--
URABE-KUN GO OUT AND GREET THE PRESS.
OKAY.
WHY DO I HAVE TO DRESS LIKE THIS...?
I CAN'T...!
I WON'T!!
JUST SAY SOMETHING OPTIMISTIC LIKE "I'LL DO MY BEST" AND YOU'LL BE FINE!

GO ON!
GET OUT THERE!
CLICK

SMILE FOR ME!
HYAKKI!
LOOK THIS WAY!
MOMOKA-CHAN!

TWIRL TWIRL TWIRL TWIRL TWIRL...
キュルルルルル...

キルルルルル…
TWIRL TWIRL TWIRL TWIRL…

SHE'S SPINNING...
WHAT'S THIS?
CHOREOGRAPHY FOR A NEW SONG?
EVEN IF IT IS,
HOW IS SHE...
SO FAST?
SKRRRR
SKRRRR

SNIP
OH...!
NOW WHAT?
SHE STOPPED...

ジャキジャキ
SNIP
SNIP
ジャキ
SNIP
ジャキ
SNIP

ガラッ
ガラッ
ガラッ

WHOA!!
YAH!!
THEY'RE EATING IT UP...
YEAH...
I DON'T GET IT, BUT IT WAS AMAZING.
WOW...
WHAT A PERFOR-MANCE!
OHH...
WHA—
WHAT ON EARTH
HAP-PENED?!

CHIHO
GU
I'M LEAVING.
I'M
WAIT!
URABE-KUN!!
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU!!
WA—

WILL YOU PLEASE FILL IN FOR HER?!
UNTIL WE FIND MOMOKA,
I HAVE A FEELING WE CAN MAKE IT WORK WITH YOU...
I'M ASKING YOU, TOO.
NO WAY!!
I BEG YOU!
PLEASE!
NOOO!!

END OF 第 CHAPTER 41

CHAPTER 42: MYSTERIOUS EXPERIMENT

OH?!

WHAT...
WHAT IS THAT?
TV TOKYO
ACHIKOA
CONCERT
LIVE
ON AIR

NOT ME, IS IT...
THAT'S...

SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
WHAT?!

MI-KOTO!!
SO THAT'S!
WHAT IS MIKOTO DOING ON TV?!
HAVE TO PLAY THE PART OF MIKOTO URAHE...
THAT MEANS I...
DOESN'T IT...?
BUT IF MIKOTO IS PERFORMING AS MOMOKA IMAI THE IDOL...
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED.

WHEW.
I DON'T GET IT...
BUT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH UKARE HAS BEEN WEIRD LATELY.
TWO DAYS AGO, SHE SENT ME FLYING WITH A HIGH KICK...
AND YESTERDAY, HER DRUGS GAVE ME A NOSEBLEED...

I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN TODAY.
THINGS HAVE BEEN WEIRDLY EXTREME LATELY...
AH!
GOOOOOD MORNING!!
WHOA!!

LET'S WALK TO SCHOOL TOGETHER!
URABE?!
I'M MIKOTO URABE!
AND YOU'RE... TSUBAKI-KUN, RIGHT?
WHA—
YEAH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JUMPING ON ME HERE?!
SOMEONE MIGHT BE WATCHING, YOU KNOW...
RECEIVE YOU
YOU AND I ARE A COUPLE, BUT
AREN'T WE?
YEAH,
BUT WE'VE BEEN KEEPING THAT SECRET FROM EVERYONE AT SCHOOL!
HUH?
YOU KNOW...
WE HAVE?
HUH?

KIND OF WEIRD LATELY...!
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING
YEAH!
YOU MEAN WHERE YOU TASTE MY DROOL!
I'LL DO IT!
OH!
"ROUTINE"...
WAIT FOR ME AT THE USUAL PLACE AFTER SCHOOL!
WE HAVE TO DO OUR ROUTINE!
A—
ANY WAY
GO ON AHEAD TO SCHOOL!
OKAY.
I'M GONNA
DON'T SAY IT SO LOUDLY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE WALK HOME...
OUR "KOUTINE," HUH?
URABE-SAN!
URABE-SAN!
OH...
HUH?
THAT'S ME!

UHH...
MORNING...
URABE-SAN!
YOU'RE FROM MY CLASS...
RIGHT?
2-A
MORNING...
OKAY.
MORNING!
UH...
THAT'S UNUSUAL.
YEAH.
YOU'RE CARRYING A DIFFERENT BAG TODAY!
I AM.
YEAH, OF COURSE.
OH...
I WAS RIGHT!
I JUST FELT LIKE IT.

AH...
SO HER NAME IS OKA.
UKABE-SAN, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO YOUR SEAT?
YEAH.
IN A LITTLE BIT.
OKAY, THE BELL'S RINGING!!
DONG
DONG
DONG
EVERYONE TO YOUR SEATS!
THAT'S THE ONLY EMPTY SEAT.
WHICH MEANS
IT MUST BE MINE.

OH...
IT'S RIGHT NEXT TO TSUBAKI-KUN.
ISN'T HERE...
SO MIKOTO...
I'M CALLING THE ROLL!
ANDOU.
IBHI-ZAKA.
UENO.
WHICH MEANS...
OKAY, LET'S GET STARTED.
OPEN YOUR TEXTBOOKS TO PAGE 84!
HERE!
URABE.
MIKOTO URABE!
TODAY, I'M...
OH, RIGHT...
I DON'T HAVE HER TEXTBOOKS!

LET ME LOOK AT YOUR BOOK!
HEY, TSUBAKI-KUN!
BOOK MARK
I FORGOT MY TEXT-BOOKS...
TEE-HEE...
HEY, URABE...
UH...

EVEN IF WE'RE DATING IN SECRET...
LOOKING AT YOUR NEIGHBOR'S TEXTBOOK IS NORMAL...
BOOK: MATH-II
$g(x) = \sin x + \cdots$
U-RABE!
ALL RIGHT!!
GIVE IT A SHOT!!
ME!
IF ANYONE THINKS THEY CAN SOLVE IT...
THIS ONE MIGHT BE A LITTLE HARD.

WOW, GREAT JOB!
EHE HE
CORRECT!
HEY, HEY!
CAN I PLAY, TOO?
HUH?
SURE, I GUESS...

BASUU
YOU KNOW...
URABE DOESN'T SEEM
ANTISOCIAL OR GLOOMY AT ALL TODAY.
YOU, TOO, URABE-SAN! NICE!
HAPPIER THAN I HAVE EVER SEEN HER!
SHE'S BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL.
TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE USUAL URABE, RIGHT?

SEEING URABE THIS WAY
FEELS JUST LIKE WATCHING HYAKKI.
.....
THIS IS GREAT.
ピンポーン
ピンポーン
ピンポーン
ピンポーン
SKO
SKO

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE "ROUTINE" WITH THAT TSUBAKI GUY...
NOW...
IT'S PRETTY INTERESTING BEING SOMEONE ELSE...
TODAY WAS FUN!
SOME-WHERE NEAR THE CON-VENIENCE STORE WHERE I FIRST MET HIM!
BUT WHERE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO MEET?
SCREECH!
KACHI
DUG
DUG
DUG
DUG...

I FOUND YOU!!
MOMO-KA!!
GRAB
TAKAGI-SAN!
COME ON, WE'RE GOING BACK!
NO!
EVERYONE AT THE AGENCY IS WAITING FOR YOU, NOT TO MENTION LOTS OF OTHER PEOPLE!
I WILL! I WILL GO BACK, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO FIRST!
THAT DOESN'T MATTER, RIGHT NOW!

NOOO!!
HUH?
COME ON!
PUSH
PUSH
URABE!
THAT'S..
COME ON, GET IN!!
NO!!

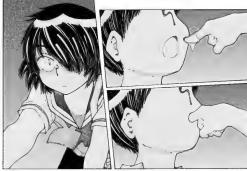
HUH?
GET YOUR HANDS OFF
MY GIRL-FRIEND!!

LET'S GO!
AH...
URABE!
THUD
GRAB
TAKA...
HUH?
OKAY!
OH...
DASH
HAHH...
HAHH...
HAHH...

UH...
UH-HUH...
ARE YOU OKAY, UKABE?
YOU TO GET IN HIS CAR...
TRYING TO FORCE
WHAT WAS WITH THAT GUY?
SOME-HOW...
I FEEL LIKE I'M REALLY MIKOTO UKABE...
O-WWW!
AND HE'S REALLY MY BOYFRIEND...
WHEN WE'RE HOLDING HANDS LIKE THIS...

YEAH.
ARE YOU OKAY?
ARE..
IT'S NOT REALLY THAT BAD..
THE FIRST TIME I EVER THAT'S REALLY PUNCHED SOMEONE..
TSU-BAKI-KUN?
WH--WHAT'S WRONG?
SO MY HAND..
REALLY HURTS..
OH--..
..
..

TOUBAKI-KUN...
HERE...
OUR ROUTINE...
OH..
YEAH...



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END OF CHAPTER 42

CHAPTER 43 : MYSTERIOUS EXPERIMENT RESULTS

HERE, OUR ROUTINE...
TSUBAKI-KUN...
OH...
YEAH
SMILE

AH...
MY NOSE IS BLEEDING
AH...
MY NOSE IS BLEEDING BECAUSE OF PAUL...
DOES THAT MEAN...
SCRAP.
MY HANDKERCHIEF...

HE AND I HAVE A BOND?
UGH...
HEY... TSUBAKI-KUN
HOW
DO YOU FEEL RIGHT NOW?
HUH?

WHEN I...
FED YOU MY DROOL...
IS YOUR HEART RACING?
MY HEART WAS RACING...
BECAUSE MY DROOL COMMUNICATED MY EXCITEMENT TO YOU...
IF YOUR NOSE STARTED BLEEDING
THEN...

THAT PROVES YOU AND I...
HAVE A BOND...
TSU-BAKI-KUN,
WHEN YOU TASTED MY DROOL,
DID YOUR HEART START TO RACE?
Y-
YEAH...
DID YOU FEEL REALLY HAPPY?
YEAH!
Y-

I HAVE A BOND WITH THIS ISUBAKI GUY, TOO!
THIS MEANS...
JUST LIKE WHEN MIKOTO SAVED HIM HER DRUGS.
HAPPY RIGHT NOW, FOR SOME REASON...
HUH?
I FEEL, REALLY
WHAT?
?
I...
LISTEN.
I HAD ACTUALLY DECIDED THAT...
?
NEVER MIND...
NOTHING.

I WOULDN'T MIND BECOMING MIKOTO URABE AND KISSING HIM...
IF I FOUND OUT WE HAD A BOND
MIKOTO URABE WAS THE GIRL
BUT AS MIKOTO URABE, THE NORMAL GIRL...

A KISS...
URABE...
LIKE I THOUGHT,
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING
A LITTLE WEIRD LATELY.
ARE YOU OKAY?

HEY,
SORRY, BUT...
CAN I
HUH...?!
TASTE YOUR DROOL ONE MORE TIME?
ONE MORE TIME...?
ONE...
OKAY...

OR LIKE... THERE'S NO SENSATION...
ODOR-LESS AND TASTE-LESS
IT'S... KIND OF...
WHEN I TASTED IT LAST TIME...
...JUST LIKE I THOUGHT.

IT USUALLY TASTES REALLY SWEET...
SWEET AT ALL.
IT'S NOT
BUT YOUR DROOL JUST NOW
HAD NO FLAVOR AT ALL.

I'VE BEEN THINKING YOU SEEMED WEIRD LATELY.
IS THERE REALLY SOME-THING WRONG WITH YOU?!
I MEAN,
TODAY'S WAS
NOTHING LIKE THE USUAL!
BU—
BUT...
WHEN YOU TASTED IT EARLIER,
YOU SAID YOUR HEART STARTED RACING!
THAT'S WHY YOUR NOSE BLED, RIGHT?!
HUH...?
BECAUSE THE BOND BETWEEN US MADE YOU...
OH!

HUH...?
BECAUSE I TASTED YOUR DROOL...
MY NOSE WASN'T BLEEDING
IT WAS...
WHEN YOU GAVE IT TO ME.
I COULD SEE...
WELL...
LEAN FORWARD A LITTLE.
NOW.
LIKE THIS?
HUH?
JUST...
STAND UP FOR A SECOND...
WHAT?
YOU COULD SEE...
SEE?
LIKE THIS?

NOW TRY LOOKING DOWN YOUR OWN COLLAR.
YEAH.
MY COLLAR?
WHAT?
OH...
BAM

SO...
SO, IN OTHER WORDS
WHEN YOU TASTED MY DROOL
YOUR HEART RACED AND YOU FELT HAPPY...
NOT BECAUSE OF MY DROOL, ITSELF.
JOLT
AH...
AHH...
NOW, THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE!
IT MIGHT BLEED AGAIN
Bond

UH...
WELL...
YEAH...
MY CHEST... WHEN YOU TASTED IT?
BUT BECAUSE YOU SAW MY...
HIS NOSE ONLY BLED BECAUSE HE SAW MY CHEST AND GOT AROUSED...
THAT MEANS...
THEY'RE NEW.
WHEN YOU CAN HAVE THEM...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SHY NEVER.
THIS UNIFORM DOES HAVE A WIDE COLLAR
ANDY BORROWED THE BRA FROM MIKOTO...
IT'S TOO BIG, SO IF I LEFT A GAP, AND HE... GULP.
DON'T MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT...
SO WE ADD...
UH...
UM.
UFAIRE...

I SAID EARLIER THAT YOUR BOOB TODAY TASTED
DIFFERENT FROM USUAL...
WHAT?!
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.
I REALIZED IT AGAIN WHEN I SAW IT JUST NOW.
UKAIBE.
CHEST
GOTTEN A LOT SMALLER?
HAS YOUR
WHIP!

SO THE REASON YOU'VE BEEN SO WEIRD LATELY MUST BE BECAUSE OF SOME PHYSICAL CHANGE, RIGHT?
I THOUGHT IT LOOKED A LOT SMALLER THAN IT USED TO...
WHEN I SAW IT THROUGH YOUR COLLAR,
WELL,
SMALL BREASTS ...
I GUESS EVEN
ARE CUTE IN THEIR OWN WAY, BUT...
SHIKO
SHIKO
SHIKO

ズバ

KA-BA

SKID SKID SKID...
IDIOT!!
DASH
DASH
TWICE
I DON'T WOULD IT AGAIN.

ニャーン
ニャーン
ニャーン
ニャーン

YEP!
YOU'RE AMAZING, MIKOTO-CHAN!
THAT WAS GREAT!
YOUR DANCING IS ON PAR WITH MOMOKA, A PROFESSIONAL.
AND HONESTLY,
YOUR SINGING ISN'T HALF BAD, EITHER.
SO WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM PUTTING HER ON THAT TV INTERVIEW THIS EVENING, RIGHT?
PROBABLY NOT.
BOOM
BOOM
REMEMBER, I'M ONLY FILLING IN FOR HER.
BECAUSE THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE UNTIL YOU FIND HER!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HAVEN'T YOU FOUND THE REAL MOMOKA IMAI YET?
SIGH
SIGH

WENT OUT TO YOUR TOWN TO LOOK FOR HER...
WELL...
TAKAGI-SAN
THANKS
UH...
HERE, MIKOTO-CHAN!
ANYWAY, MOMOKA MAIS CONCERT TOUR STARTS IN TWO DAYS, RIGHT?
CAN YOU FIND HER BY THEN?
WHO'S GOING TO DO THE CONCERT OTHER THAN HER?
YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT.
IF IT COMES TO THAT...
I'LL BE FINE!
REILA!!
D-DON'T SAY SOMETHING SO IRRESPONSIBLE!
WHY DO I HAVE TO...!!

YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THAT?
EVEN IF IT'S DOWN TO THE LAST MINUTE, SHE'LL COME BACK...
SHE'S A PROFESSIONAL IDOL.
WHY IS SHE SO DETERMINED TO BE NORMAL?
WHAT IS A "NORMAL GIRL" ANYWAY?
MOMOKA TRIED TO SWITCH PLACES WITH ME BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO BE A NORMAL GIRL.
IN THE FIRST PLACE...
WITH THE FIRST BOY SHE LOVED...
BECAUSE...
.....
MOMOKA-CHAN HAS SOME PAINFUL MEMORIES

END OF CHAPTER 43

CHAPTER 44: MYSTERIOUS TREMBLE

WHAT IS A "NORMAL GIRL" ANYWAY?
MOMOKA TRIED TO SWITCH PLACES WITH ME BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO BE A NORMAL GIRL.
IN THE FIRST PLACE,
WHY IS SHE SO DETERMINED TO BE NORMAL?

BEFORE MOMOKA-CHAN
BECAME AN IDOL,
OR, IN OTHER WORDS, WHEN SHE WAS A "NORMAL GIRL"...
MOMOKA-CHAN HAS SOME PAINFUL MEMORIES
WITH THE FIRST BOY SHE LOVED...
BECAUSE ...

THE FIRST BOY MOMOKA-CHAN EVER FELL IN LOVE WITH.
THERE WAS A BOY AT HER SCHOOL SHE KEALLY LIKED...
SHE GREW MORE AND MORE FAMOUS.
AND DEBUTED AS AN IDOL.
WHEN SHE WAS SCOUTED ON THE STREET BY TAKASHI-SAN.
THOUGH, AT THE TIME, SHE DIDN'T TELL HIM HOW SHE FELT.
SO IT WAS JUST A ONE-SIDED CRUSH...

MUSTERED UP HER COURAGE
AND TOLD HIM...
MOMOKA-CHAN...
ON THE DAY SHE TRANSFERRED...
SO,
AND SHE TRANSFERRED
FROM HER OLD SCHOOL
TO A SCHOOL IN TOKYO

THEN...
WELL...
HE ACCEPTED HER CONFESSION.
AND THEY DECIDED TO MEET NOW AND THEN, EVEN IF THEY WENT TO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS.
WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO KISS HER...
...THAT SHE LOVED HIM.

I CAN BRAG TO ALL MY FRIENDS
THAT I'M DATING MOMOKA IMAI, THE IDOL.
HE SAID TO HER...
THIS IS WHAT

ズニ
KA-BAM
YES.
SHE KICKED HIM?

WELL, AFTER A TALK WITH HIS PARENTS,
IT DIDN'T GET TOO OUT OF HAND.
BUT OUT OF CONCERN FOR HER FUTURE, TAKAGI-SAN GAVE HER...
SO HE WAS HURT,
SHE HAD PUT ALL HER STRENGTH INTO IT...
AND...
AND IT TURNED INTO A BIT OF AN ORDEAL...
TAKAGI-SAN TOLD HER TO WEAR THEM SO SHE CAN'T KICK ANYONE AND CAUSE A FUSS AGAIN.
THE THING UNDER MOMOKA'S SKIRT...
YOU KNOW.
HIGH KICK RESTRAINTS.
BUT SHE STILL KICKS PEOPLE.
SHE EVEN KICKED ME ONCE.
OH...
KICK KICK KICK

BUT...
WHETHER SHE WEARS IT OR NOT.
SO NOW, IT DOESN'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE.
SHE'S GOTTEN USED TO UNDOING THE SPRING.
SO NOBODY WILL GET HURT!
WHEN SHE DOES KICK SOMEONE.
SHE HOLDS BACK AT THE LAST SECOND.
THE FACT THAT SHE COULDN'T HOLD BACK AND ACTUALLY HURT HIM
MUST MEAN THAT WHAT HE SAID TO HER
WAS A REAL SHOCK TO HER.
THE FACT THAT
HE SAW HER,
NOT AS A NORMAL GIRL,
BUT AS MOMOKA IMAI, THE IDOL...

AND CAN FALL IN LOVE WITH WHOMEVER SHE LIKES..
JUST LIKE HER, BUT LIVES AS A NORMAL GIRL.
SO, FROM MOMOKA-CHAN'S PERSPECTIVE,
SOMEONE WHO LOOKS
13
IS THAT REALLY WHY?
IS..
MAKES HER VERY ENVIOUS OF YOU.
MIKOTO-CHAN..
BY THE WAY,
HAVE A
DO YOU
BOYFRIEND RIGHT NOW?
UH...
HUH?!
SHE DOES.
WELL..
HUHG

A BOYFRIEND.
URABE-KUN HAS
OH!
HUH?
TAKAGI-SAN!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S MISTAKEN MOMOKA
SOME BOY CAME RUNNING OUT OF NOWHERE AND PUNCHED ME.
WHEN I GRABBED MOMOKA AND TRIED TO GET HER IN THE CAR,
FOR HIS OWN GIRL-FRIEND.
IN FACT...

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN
YES...
THAT WAS
YOUR BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?
HE SHOUTED, "GET YOUR HANDS OFF MY GIRLFRIEND!"
HE HAD A GREEN BACKPACK...
TSUBAKI-KUN...
THANKS TO HIM, MOMOKA GOT AWAY...
SINCE IT WAS YOUR BOY-FRIEND'S FAULT.
URABE-KUN.
YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE RE-SPONSIBILITY AND FILL IN FOR MOMOKA A WHILE LONGER!
AND I WAS LISTENING TO YOU GIRLS
OH,
FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR

AS A NEGATIVE THING.
DOESN'T THINK OF BEING AN IDOL
BUT MOMOKA
IT'S TRUE THAT SOME PAINFUL THINGS HAPPENED
BETWEEN HER AND HER FIRST LOVE.
MIYA-SAN, NOZAKI-KUN,
AND YOU, TOO, URAHE-KUN!
WOULD YOU COME WITH ME?
OH...

THIS IS WHERE
THE CONCERT WILL TAKE PLACE, IN TWO DAYS.

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE SHE KICKED THAT BOY AND HURT HIM.
IT WAS
RIGHT BEFORE HER FIRST CONCERT...
TWO DAYS BEFORE THE SHOW, MOMOKA WAS DEPRESSED.
WHEN MOMOKA WAS DEPRESSED,
I BROUGHT HER TO THE HALL
AND TOLD HER THIS:
LISTEN, MOMOKA.
IN TWO DAYS, I WANT YOU TO SING AS THOUGH,
SOMEWHERE IN THAT AUDIENCE, YOUR TRUE FUTURE BOYFRIEND IS WATCHING YOU.

AMONG ALL THE FANS WHO CAME TO SEE YOU,
YOUR FUTURE BOYFRIEND IS OUT
SING WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT AS THOUGH
AFTER I SAID THAT...
THROUGH THE HANDS HAD ON HER SHOULDERS,
I COULD FEEL MOMOKA START TO TREMBLE
AND PULL ON A FANTASTIC PERFORMANCE!
TWO DAYS AFTER, MOMOKA REGARDED EVERYONE IN THE AUDIENCE AS HER BOYFRIEND

BUT I BELIEVE SHE'LL COME BACK IN TIME FOR THE CONCERT.
SHE'S TRYING TO RUN AWAY. NOW.
MOMOKA IS A NATURAL BORN IDOL.
AND EVEN IF SHE WISHES TO BE NORMAL...
SO EVEN IF SHE'S HURT SOMEONE...
I CAN'T LOOK AT THE AUDIENCE.
YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LOOK FOR MOMOKA-CHAN ANYMORE?
WAIT!
I'M GOING BACK TO KAZAMIDAI TOMORROW.
THAT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.
THAT'S WHAT I SAID.
SHE'LL COME BACK AT THE LAST MINUTE.

...AS THOUGH EACH OF THEM WERE MY BOYFRIEND. BUT...
AND I MADE EYE CONTACT AND DANCE IN FRONT OF HIM!
IF TSUBAKI-KUN WERE IN THE AUDIENCE,
TWIRL
TWIRL
WATCHING ME ON THE STAGE,

BOOM
キュルルル
TWIRL
TWIRL

ギュッ
CLUTCH
SIGN: KAZAMIDAI SHOPPING DISTRICT
SHIVER A LITTLE
IT MAKES ME

ピト
SUDDENLY, A NOISE FROM BEHIND... SOUND OF SOMEONE RUNNING AWAY
マヌダ電機
IPHONE
IPOD
PLAYSTATION
TO THE MONDAY, WHEN HE'S CHEATED BY MIKOTO
THE VIDEO OF MIKOTO...
THEY'RE PLAYING IT AGAIN...
TV
THE
TV
TO BOTOM: GAKUYA'S DOWNING PERFORMANCE

HYAKKI IS SO CUTE!
THIS PERFORMANCE IS GREAT!
THE CONTRAST BETWEEN HER CUTENESS AND THAT SPEED
IS REALLY SOMETHING ELSE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT GIRL
ISN'T EVEN MOMOKA
HUH?
YOU CAN TELL IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY.
WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?
HUH?

.....
LIKE...
IS MORE...
THE REAL MOMOKA
YOU THINK?
HUH?
DOESN'T SHE LOOK KINDA LIKE MOMOKA?
TO BORROW THIS FOR A BIT.
I'M GOING

MISS!
WAIT!
WA-

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
MISS!

END OF X CHAPTER 44